

Side-by-Side Comparison on Energy Plans

	Democratic Plan	Republican Bill
Stops Price Gouging at the Pump?	<p>YES. Gives the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice authority to prosecute oil companies engaged in price gouging involving gasoline, home heating oil, or natural gas.</p> <p>Imposes tough civil penalties -- of up to triple damages of all excess profits -- on companies that have cheated consumers, including tough criminal penalties of up to \$100 million on corporations.</p> <p>Bans other manipulative pricing practices by oil companies, and empowers state Attorneys General to enforce the federal law.</p>	<p>NO. Republican price gouging provisions are a fig leaf, lacking sufficient enforcement of its price gouging provisions.</p> <p>Fails to impose tough new penalties for price gouging, even as oil companies rake in record profits.</p> <p>Fails to ban manipulative pricing, fails to empower State Attorneys General to enforce these provisions, and only applies when a national disaster disrupts energy supply.</p>
Provides Consumers with Relief for Rising Energy Cost? Deals with Home Heating Costs?	<p>YES. Provides relief to consumers facing skyrocketing home heating cost by expanding the low-income energy assistance through fines from price-gouging companies. By deterring price-gouging, it would provide relief to consumers, small businesses, and farmers paying record energy prices.</p>	<p>NO. Republican bill fails to deal with skyrocketing home heating costs. As we head into winter, the Republican bill fails to cover natural gas, even though more than half of all household heat with natural gas and natural gas costs are predicted to shoot up as much as 85 percent in some regions.</p>
Does the plan reward oil companies that are making record profits?	<p>NO. Stops tax breaks for oil and gas companies at times of high energy prices; applies antitrust laws to OPEC oil producers engaged in price manipulation; and calls for an investigation of oil companies efforts to limit refinery capacity in order to increase profits.</p>	<p>YES. Creates taxpayer subsidies for oil companies, totaling \$3.5 billion, including those that cover all the costs that an oil company may incur due to a delay in the initial operation of a new oil refinery, including delays due to compliance with state or federal laws.</p>
Strengthens our nation's refinery capacity?	<p>YES. Establishes a Strategic Refinery Reserve (SRR) like the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), to ensure new refining capacity that operates at all times and can be increased during emergency supply disruptions.</p>	<p>NO. It is unlikely to increase refining capacity, even though it provides a new fast-track authority for permitting oil refineries. Refineries are not being built because the industry has deliberately decided not to build them -- requesting permits for only one new refinery over the last 25 years.</p>